APR 2 4 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Schaefer, et al.

Appl. No.: 10/009,527

Filed: December 10, 2001

For: Biological Joint Construct

Atty. Docket No.: 966927.00004

Examiner: Barnhart, Lora Elizabeth

Group Art Unit: 1651

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Window Randolph Building Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for responding to the outstanding Office Action be extended three months from January 24, 2006 to April 24, 2006 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17) is believed to be \$510.00 for a three-month extension for a small entity. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0622.

Respectfully submitted,

REED SMITH LLP

Date: <u>04/24/2</u>556

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE